largest, having a collection of orange coloured spots at its centre. Stamens declinate, unequal; the filaments white, thickened and hairy at base; anthers two celled, opening by two pores at top; pollen white. Germ ovate, hairy, glutinous; style declinate, equal to the longest stamens, thickened upwards; stigma a rough surface with five points. Capsule ovate, obtusely angular, five-celled. Seeds numerous, minute.

Considered in its chemical character, this shrub is a resinous astringent. A decoction of the leaves gives strong proofs of the presence of tannin in large quantities. Both the bark and leaves, digested in alcohol, produce a resinous tincture, which is immediately rendered turbid by water. The glutinous covering of the flower stalks appears of a resinous nature. A decoction of the leaves in water affords nothing which is not soluble in alcohol, and did not alter by it in two days' standing.

I have been induced to examine the Rhododendron and to insert it in this work, on account of the reputation it has possessed of being poisonous. The late Professor Barton, in his collections towards an American Materia Medica, has given various intimations of this sort, the most conclusive of which is his expression, "This is

certainly a poison."—The result of my own attention to this shrub does not give reason for attaching to it suspicions of possessing a very deleterious nature. None of its external characters would lead to apprehensions of this sort, particularly the taste, which is simply astringent and herbaceous, and much like that of a common oak leaf. I know not what quantity might prove injurious, but under the conviction that the plant was not particularly dangerous, I have swallowed a green leaf of the middle size, so large that it required some resolution to masticate so unpalatable a morsel, but have found no ill effect whatever to result from it.

Medicinally considered, I think it must be ranked among the astringents, a place which both its sensible and chemical properties entitle it to hold. If it have any narcotic powers, they will probably be developed only by an extraordinary dose, which few persons will be likely to put to the test.